



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

Week Ending July 24, 2005

Issued weekly, April-November

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This report can be found on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/pa

Good Week for Field Work: Weather in the Keystone State was predominantly warm and very humid last week. Scattered showers brought relief to some areas as crop and pasture conditions continued to improve. Overall, 5 days were suitable for field work, and principal farm activities included making hay, baling straw, mowing set aside acres, harvesting small grains, harvesting peaches, spreading manure, and caring for livestock.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending July 24, 2005

| Very Short | Short | Adequate | Surplus |
|------------|---------|----------|---------|
| Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent |
| 14 | 35 | 51 | 0 |

Crops: Corn height is now at 79 inches, 16 inches ahead of the 5-year average and 5 inches ahead of last year. Corn is 64 percent silked, well ahead of the historic average. Seven percent of corn is in dough stage, slightly behind last year and the 5-year average. Corn crop conditions continue to improve as 71 percent is rated as either good or excellent. Sixty-one percent of soybeans have bloomed, well ahead of the 5-year average. Soybean conditions look good as 73 percent of the crop is rated as either good or excellent. The wheat harvest is now 92 percent complete, considerably ahead of last year and the 5-year average. Eighty-one percent of oats are yellow, and 45 percent of the crop is now ripe, both ahead of the historic pace. The oat harvest is now 13 percent complete, slightly behind the 5-year average. Oat conditions remained steady from last week as 62 percent of the crop is rated as either good or excellent. Five percent of potatoes are now harvested, the same as last year and the 5-year average. Eighty-seven percent of the 2nd cutting of alfalfa is now complete, as well as 23 percent of the 3rd cutting. Sixty-four percent of the alfalfa stand is rated as either good or excellent. Forty-seven percent of the 2nd cutting of timothy is now complete. The quality of hay made this week was 2 percent very poor, 3 percent poor, 30 percent fair, 48 percent good, and 17 percent excellent. This is a slight decrease from last week.

The peach and apple crops continue to look good. Sixty-nine percent of peaches and 86 percent of apples are rated as either good or excellent. Twenty-seven percent of the peach crop has now been harvested, behind last year but slightly ahead of the 5-year average.

Livestock: Pasture conditions were rated with the following: 13 percent very poor, 23 percent poor, 29 percent fair, 32 percent good, and 3 percent excellent. Pastures continue to suffer from the heat.

U.S. As of July 17, 2005: Highlights: Hurricane Dennis brought moderate to heavy rain to the Mississippi Delta, Southeast, middle Mississippi Valley, and Ohio River Valley, generally improving crop conditions. Cloud cover and rain associated with the hurricane held temperatures below normal across these regions, while above-normal temperatures prevailed across most other areas, favoring rapid crop development. Conditions were mostly dry, with only light, scattered rain, from the western Corn Belt across the northern and central Great Plains and Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Coast. Corn: Forty-nine percent of the crop was at the silking stage or beyond, 2 percentage points ahead of last year and 8 points ahead of normal. Doughing advanced to 6 percent complete, 2 points behind last year but the same as the 5-year average. Soybeans: Blooming was 63 percent complete, compared with 56 percent last year and 50 percent for the 5-year average. Setting pods, at 16 percent complete, was 1 point ahead of last year and 3 points ahead of normal. Winter Wheat: Producers had reaped 79 percent of their acreage, compared with 76 percent last year and 77 percent for the normal. Small Grains: The barley crop was 89 percent headed, compared with 87 percent last year and 86 percent for the 5-year average. Oat heading advanced to 98 percent complete, 4 points ahead of last year and 3 points ahead of normal. Growers had harvested 22 percent of their crop, compared with 16 percent last year and 19 percent for the 5-year average. Heading reached completion in Nebraska and Ohio and neared completion in Minnesota, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

Weather Data For Week Ending July 24, 2005

| Station | Last Week Weather Summary | | | | | | April 1 - July 24, 2005 | | | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|-----|---------|-----|---------------|------|-------------------------|-------|------|--------------|------|----------|
| | Temperature | | | | Precipitation | | Precipitation | | | GDD Base 50F | | Base 40F |
| | High | Low | Average | DFN | Total | Days | Total | DFN | Days | Total | DFN | Total |
| Northwest | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Erie | 90 | 62 | 76 | 5 | 0.83 | 4 | 8.80 | -4.63 | 41 | 1,507 | 237 | 2,471 |
| Franklin | 86 | 59 | 74 | 4 | 0.87 | 5 | 12.87 | -2.92 | 65 | 1,352 | 138 | 2,364 |
| Meadville | 87 | 60 | 75 | 6 | 0.82 | 5 | 11.42 | -3.64 | 47 | 1,432 | 327 | 2,440 |
| Mercer | 86 | 60 | 75 | 5 | 0.99 | 5 | 13.86 | -1.22 | 62 | 1,384 | 179 | 2,374 |
| Springboro | 89 | 55 | 74 | 3 | 1.16 | 5 | 11.59 | -1.81 | 50 | 1,300 | 19 | 2,248 |
| Warren | 88 | 58 | 74 | 4 | 0.41 | 4 | 10.49 | -5.14 | 48 | 1,324 | 145 | 2,316 |
| North Central | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bradford Region | 83 | 48 | 69 | 4 | 0.18 | 3 | 14.04 | -1.83 | 53 | 1,026 | 176 | 1,945 |
| Emporium | 87 | 53 | 73 | 7 | 0.49 | 5 | 9.65 | -6.49 | 51 | 1,309 | 354 | 2,302 |
| Kane | 85 | 49 | 70 | 5 | 0.11 | 2 | 11.16 | -4.77 | 47 | 980 | 140 | 1,890 |
| Laporte | 83 | 56 | 72 | 2 | 0.42 | 2 | 14.45 | -0.48 | 53 | 1,183 | -31 | 2,132 |
| Lock Haven | 90 | 53 | 76 | 6 | 0.17 | 2 | 7.96 | -6.54 | 42 | 1,511 | 217 | 2,554 |
| Port Allegany | 86 | 51 | 71 | 5 | 0.15 | 1 | 10.21 | -5.09 | 43 | 1,133 | 178 | 2,056 |
| Renovo | 91 | 53 | 76 | 5 | 0.71 | 1 | 6.15 | -8.35 | 40 | 1,492 | 198 | 2,534 |
| Ridgway | 85 | 55 | 72 | 6 | 0.64 | 4 | 11.44 | -4.70 | 49 | 1,146 | 191 | 2,113 |
| Stevenson Dam | 88 | 56 | 75 | 8 | 0.52 | 2 | 9.29 | -6.85 | 50 | 1,388 | 433 | 2,412 |
| Towanda | 89 | 53 | 74 | 4 | 0.06 | 2 | 9.87 | -2.50 | 41 | 1,383 | 158 | 2,389 |
| Wellsboro | 84 | 51 | 71 | 5 | 0.16 | 1 | 14.99 | 2.50 | 43 | 1,100 | 204 | 2,022 |
| Williamsport | 90 | 55 | 77 | 4 | 0.94 | 2 | 13.78 | -0.77 | 35 | 1,641 | 202 | 2,695 |
| Northeast | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hawley | 88 | 51 | 73 | 5 | 0.04 | 1 | 12.65 | -1.20 | 44 | 1,228 | 202 | 2,198 |
| Wilkes-Barre/Sc | 90 | 57 | 77 | 6 | 0.19 | 2 | 9.14 | -4.46 | 41 | 1,639 | 273 | 2,693 |
| Susquehanna | 88 | 56 | 74 | 7 | 0.18 | 2 | 11.51 | -3.31 | 50 | 1,318 | 333 | 2,305 |
| West Central | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Butler | 88 | 58 | 75 | 5 | 0.53 | 5 | 13.01 | -1.84 | 47 | 1,431 | 168 | 2,485 |
| New Castle | 93 | 60 | 77 | 7 | 0.31 | 3 | 14.12 | 0.38 | 46 | 1,545 | 273 | 2,595 |
| Slippery Rock | 88 | 59 | 75 | 7 | 1.14 | 3 | 14.80 | 0.24 | 46 | 1,429 | 285 | 2,493 |
| Central | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Altoona/Blair | 84 | 53 | 73 | 2 | 0.90 | 5 | 7.94 | -5.66 | 29 | 1,391 | 20 | 2,424 |
| DuBois | 84 | 54 | 72 | 3 | 0.20 | 4 | 10.98 | -4.03 | 59 | 1,296 | 117 | 2,311 |
| Lewistown | 90 | 58 | 77 | 4 | 1.18 | 5 | 11.70 | -2.91 | 41 | 1,616 | 110 | 2,691 |
| Middletown | 90 | 64 | 80 | 4 | 1.02 | 2 | 12.85 | -1.32 | 35 | 1,912 | 206 | 3,027 |
| Prince Gallitzi | 87 | 56 | 73 | 5 | 1.65 | 2 | 10.61 | -6.61 | 49 | 1,221 | 142 | 2,207 |
| Selinsgrove | 90 | 56 | 77 | 5 | 0.61 | 3 | 13.04 | -1.55 | 38 | 1,544 | 140 | 2,599 |
| State College | 87 | 59 | 76 | 5 | 0.06 | 2 | 7.50 | -5.93 | 43 | 1,540 | 187 | 2,604 |
| East Central | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Allentown-Bethel | 90 | 58 | 78 | 4 | 0.97 | 1 | 15.42 | 0.79 | 41 | 1,672 | 114 | 2,761 |
| Lehighnton | 89 | 57 | 76 | 3 | 0.54 | 3 | 15.21 | 0.48 | 42 | 1,511 | 18 | 2,579 |
| Matamoras | 89 | 53 | 74 | 2 | 1.16 | 4 | 13.43 | -2.03 | 48 | 1,312 | -36 | 2,321 |
| Tobyhanna | 89 | 58 | 76 | 10 | 0.95 | 4 | 16.25 | 0.11 | 60 | 1,471 | 580 | 2,527 |
| Southwest | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pittsburgh/Alle | 89 | 61 | 78 | 6 | 0.79 | 4 | 9.03 | -5.27 | 49 | 1,759 | 381 | 2,858 |
| Derry | 86 | 62 | 74 | 4 | 1.31 | 4 | 13.92 | -0.70 | 44 | 1,453 | 171 | 2,509 |
| Myersdale | 83 | 51 | 71 | 2 | 0.05 | 2 | 12.88 | -3.31 | 42 | 1,080 | -166 | 2,043 |
| Mount Pleasant | 86 | 56 | 75 | 6 | 2.76 | 4 | 15.66 | -0.75 | 54 | 1,422 | 291 | 2,481 |
| Pittsburgh Intl | 87 | 59 | 76 | 4 | 1.10 | 3 | 14.35 | 0.95 | 49 | 1,649 | 201 | 2,731 |
| Rector | 85 | 58 | 74 | 6 | 1.13 | 5 | 13.76 | -2.65 | 62 | 1,404 | 273 | 2,460 |
| Waynesburg | 88 | 57 | 76 | 5 | 0.57 | 3 | 12.16 | -2.40 | 42 | 1,464 | 133 | 2,532 |
| South Central | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Biglerville | 90 | 60 | 78 | 3 | 0.80 | 3 | 14.82 | 1.81 | 42 | 1,658 | -21 | 2,751 |
| Everett | 87 | 51 | 71 | -1 | 0.31 | 3 | 7.68 | -5.39 | 41 | 1,107 | -234 | 2,096 |
| Hanover | 89 | 56 | 77 | 2 | 0.42 | 3 | 16.40 | 3.39 | 39 | 1,637 | -42 | 2,721 |
| Shippensburg | 90 | 59 | 77 | 3 | 0.96 | 4 | 16.23 | 3.00 | 44 | 1,694 | 27 | 2,775 |
| South Mountain | 85 | 54 | 73 | 2 | 0.96 | 4 | 13.38 | -0.22 | 38 | 1,453 | 89 | 2,546 |
| York | 90 | 55 | 77 | 3 | 0.93 | 3 | 10.36 | -4.08 | 30 | 1,671 | -1 | 2,754 |
| Southeast | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Green Lane | 90 | 60 | 79 | 6 | 0.24 | 2 | 13.63 | -0.69 | 37 | 1,649 | 169 | 2,745 |
| Hamburg | 91 | 60 | 78 | 7 | 0.40 | 2 | 14.06 | -3.12 | 36 | 1,690 | 350 | 2,780 |
| Hopewell | 90 | 60 | 79 | 3 | 1.00 | 4 | 16.46 | 1.47 | 52 | 1,661 | -98 | 2,759 |
| Lancaster | 88 | 59 | 77 | 3 | 0.52 | 2 | 17.50 | 2.58 | 37 | 1,712 | 153 | 2,806 |
| Neshaminy Falls | 90 | 58 | 78 | 4 | 1.25 | 1 | 17.71 | 1.05 | 32 | 1,540 | -12 | 2,611 |
| New Holland | 92 | 60 | 79 | 5 | 0.08 | 1 | 13.31 | -1.61 | 37 | 1,750 | 191 | 2,848 |
| Philadelphia | 93 | 66 | 82 | 6 | 0.18 | 1 | 13.96 | -0.49 | 35 | 1,947 | 146 | 3,084 |
| Philadelphia NE | 93 | 64 | 81 | 4 | 3.00 | 2 | 17.70 | 3.25 | 34 | 1,896 | 95 | 3,022 |
| Reading | 91 | 59 | 78 | 5 | 1.95 | 2 | 14.10 | -1.75 | 37 | 1,814 | 289 | 2,914 |
| Valley Forge Na | 94 | 53 | 79 | 3 | 1.00 | 1 | 15.49 | 0.50 | 25 | 1,555 | -204 | 2,621 |
| Willow Grove | 91 | 62 | 80 | 6 | 1.31 | 1 | 16.27 | -0.39 | 32 | 1,754 | 202 | 2,866 |

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).
Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.
Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.
Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.
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Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

ADAMS COUNTY, Sharon Weigle (FSA) - Some fields are too wet for field work from last week's rains and thundershowers. Some wheat is still in wet fields but the high humidity and rains are a concern for sprouting and test weight. Yields for barley and wheat are generally a little higher this year. Pastures are greening up again since the rains. Early peaches are being harvested. Fruit crops look good so far.

BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier (EXT) - Recent rain and sunshine have greatly improved corn and bean crops. Straw from wheat was short. Haymaking is still a challenge due to weather.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA) - It is still very dry.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, Dan McCarty (AgChoice) - Crops are looking good for the amount of rain we have had. Some concerns about pollination.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr (FSA) - The past week saw showers over the entire area. This has helped to aid crop growth. Oats are being harvested between showers, and hay made this week was only fair in quality. Humid weather is slowing drying. Pastures have recovered. Generally good feeling now about crop prospects.

LACKAWANNA COUNTY, John Esslinger (EXT) - Dry conditions have reduced vegetable crop potential significantly.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield (EXT) - Hot and humid conditions and moist soil helped crops progress; by late in the week, some moisture stress was visible. Most of the corn is silking, beans are flowering, wheat harvest is complete, and oats are coming off. Sweet corn and tomatoes are now ready.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C Sheaffer - It was hot and very humid for the greater part of the week; beneficial showers during mid-week. The crops have done an about face. The corn is tasseling and pollinating, and the soybeans are blooming. The wheat harvest is near complete and the oats harvest is beginning. It has been difficult to make any quality hay. The main activities were baling straw, mowing set aside acres, harvesting wheat and oats.

SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY, Willie Keeney (NRCS) - Spotty showers brought some temporary relief to the area. The weekend heat and wind has crops begging for moisture.

TIOGA COUNTY, Pamela Barnes - Very dry here. We've had three different storms go by and get about a tenth of an inch each time. Going on three weeks since we had a rain. Corn would have tasseled a week ago if we had the moisture. Third cutting of hay is not growing.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) - Scattered thunderstorms have caused county-wide conditions to range from extremely dry to adequate moisture. Later-cutting hay yields have been reduced in the dry sections. However, even in the dry areas, corn and soybeans could still yield reasonably well if some moisture arrives soon. Crops look excellent in portions of the county that have received regular rainfall.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending July 24, 2005

| Crop | Current Week | Last Year | 5-Year Average |
|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> |
| Corn, silk | 64 | 66 | 45 |
| Corn, dough | 7 | 13 | 11 |
| Corn average height, inches | 79 | 74 | 63 |
| Barley, harvested | 99 | 100 | 94 |
| Wheat, harvested | 92 | 82 | 82 |
| Oats, turning yellow | 81 | 69 | 68 |
| Oats, ripe | 45 | 28 | 39 |
| Oats, harvested | 13 | 6 | 18 |
| Potatoes, harvested | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Alfalfa, 2nd cutting | 87 | 68 | 67 |
| Alfalfa, 3rd cutting | 23 | 17 | 18 |
| Timothy clover, 2nd cutting | 47 | 15 | 20 |
| Peaches, harvested | 27 | 36 | 26 |

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending July 24, 2005

| Crop | Very Poor | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent |
|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> |
| Corn | 2 | 6 | 21 | 45 | 26 |
| Oats | 0 | 8 | 30 | 46 | 16 |
| Soybeans | 1 | 3 | 23 | 52 | 21 |
| Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand | 1 | 8 | 27 | 52 | 12 |
| Quality of hay made | 2 | 3 | 30 | 48 | 17 |
| Pasture | 13 | 23 | 29 | 32 | 3 |
| Peaches | 2 | 5 | 24 | 47 | 22 |
| Apples | 2 | 3 | 9 | 53 | 33 |

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